

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claim 1 has been amended. Claim 5 has been cancelled. Claim 9 is a new claim.

Claim Rejections

The Examiner rejected Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Thorndon (No. 4,631,971). Applicant has amended Claim 1 by adding more specific structure to the claim, and has combined Claim 5 with Claim 1 to positively recite in Claim 1 the timing mechanism. Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider the rejection of Claim 1 in light of the amendments made thereto, inasmuch as the Thorndon Patent does not disclose nor suggest the structure as now recited.

The Examiner rejected Claims 2-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thorndon in view of Pitassi et al. (No. 4,889,013) in that Thorndon discloses the claimed invention except for the use of a plurality of internal force generators connected in series along the length of an input shaft, and whereas Pitassi et al. discloses a torque converter utilizing a plurality of internal force generators connected in series. As noted above, Claim 1 has been amended to recite structure which is not at all claimed or shown or disclosed by Thorndon, and the addition of the torque converter of Pitassi et al. would not have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have utilized the force generator

configuration of Pitassi et al. in the Thornton Patent. There is no suggestion in Pitassi et al. to make such a substitution and, in any event, the primary reference is deficient in its showing for the modified structure.

CONCLUSION

It is believed with the amendments to the claims of the instant application, the claims now patentably define over the references as applied by the Examiner, or over any combination of other disclosed references, and Applicant suggests that the claims are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is requested that the Examiner reexamine the application and Applicant requests a Notice Of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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